

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196611

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BELGRADE, BERLIN,
BUCHAREST, BUDAPEST, MOSCOW, ALL NATO CAPITALS, PEKING, PRAGUE,
SOFIA, WARSAW FROM NATO JULY 27:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 07257

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, AL

SUBJECT: ALBANIA

1. AT JULY 26 POLADS MEETING, FRENCH REP REPORTED THAT IN
RECENT DISCUSSION WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR, ALBANIAN VICE
FOREIGN MINISTER MELILI STRESSED, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF ZERI I POPULIT CRITICISM OF CHINA,
THAT ALBANIA HAD NO INTENTION OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH
MOSCOW OR EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, NOR DID ALBANIA
INTEND TO ALTER ITS PRESENT RELATIONS WITH WESTERN COUN-
TRIES. FRENCH REP SAID HE ALSO RECEIVED A REPORT THAT THE
ALBANIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING HAD DENIED REPORTS ORIGINATING
IN BELGRADE TO THE EFFECT THAT ALBANIA WAS REQUESTING WITH-
DRAWAL OF CHINESE EXPERTS.

2. BELGIAN REP, RECALLING EARLIER SERVICE IN BELGRADE AND
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TRAVEL IN ALBANIA, COMMENTED THAT REPORTS ON ALBANIA ORI-
GINATING IN BELGRADE WERE FREQUENTLY INACCURATE AND THAT
ALBANIANS HAD IN THE PAST INPLICITLY CRITICIZED CHINA IN
PRESS COMMENTARY. HE ASCRIBED PRESENT WORSENING OF SINO-
ALBANIAN RELATIONS TO ALBANIAN CONCERN OVER INCREASED
INTEREST ON PART OF PEKING IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH
YUGOSLAVIA AND TITO'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO PEKING.

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3. ITALIAN REP SAID HE HAD RECEIVED REPORT OF RECENT
ARRIVAL OF CHINESE TANKS IN ALBANIA AND INFERRED A CONTIN-
UED CLOSE SINO-ALBANIA RELATIONSHIP. THERE FOLLOWS INFORMAL
MISSION TRANSLATION OF ITALIAN PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. BEGIN TEXT
PERMANENT MISSION OF ITALY TO NATO

BRUSSELS, JULY 25, 1977

JULY 7 ARTICLE FROM THE ALBANIAN NEWSPAPER "ZERI I POPULLIT"

THE JULY 7 ARTICLE IN "ZERI I POPULLIT" CONSTITUTES WITHOUT
ANY DOUBT A STRAIGHTFORWARD ATTACK ON THE CHINESE "INTER-
NATIONALIST LINE" AND ON THE "THIRD WORLD" CONCEPT ENOUNCED
BY PRESIDENT MAO: "UNITE ALL THAT CAN BE UNITED AGAINST
SOCIAL-INPERIALISM"; IT'S A QUESTION, ACCORDING TO THE
ALBANIANS, OF A REAL BETRAYAL OF MARXISM-LENINISM.

ALL THAT COULD APPEAR SECONDARY (IN THE SENSE THAT ALBANIAN
IDEOLOGICAL RIGIDITY IS NOTHING NEW), IF ONE DOESN'T TAKE
INTO ACCOUNT THE PRESENT CRITICAL PHASE OF THE WORLD REVO-
LUTIONARY MOVEMENT AND OF THE POSITION WHICH THE PCC WISHES
TO TAKE WITHIN THAT MOVEMENT, AS UNIQUE INTERPRETER OF
MARXISM-LENINISM.
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ACCORDING TO OUR AMBASSADOR IN PEKING, THIS NEW AND VERY
VIOLENT ATTACK BY THE ALBANIAN PARTY CAN BE EXPLAINED IN
DIFFERENT WAYS:

1. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE ALBANIANS, WHO HAVE A CERTAIN
PRESTIGE AMONG MARXIST-LENINIST GROUPS, THINK THEY CAN
EXERCISE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PRESSURE ON THE DISCUSSIONS
WHICH ARE TAKING PLACE AMONG THE SUCCESSORS TO MAO ON THE
QUESTION OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD REVOLUTIONARY MOVE-
MENT;

2. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE ALBANIANS ARE ON THE POINT
OF BECOMING UPSET ABOUT "THE EXCELLENT RAPPORT" WHICH THE
PRC IS DEVELOPING WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA AND ABOUT
THEIR INCREASING ACTIVISM TOWARDS CERTAIN COUNTRIES OF THE
WARSAW PACT (HUNGARY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND);

3. FINALLY, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE ALBANIANS ARE PRE-
OCCUPIED WITH THE GROWING ATTENTION WHICH THE CHINESE ARE
GIVING TO THE PHENOMENON OF EUROCOMMUNISM, WITH WHICH THE
AFFINITIES WITH YUGOSLAVIAN REVISIONISM ARE EVIDENT AND

WHICH TODAY IS CONSIDERED BY PEKING TO BE A MODEL OF "NON-ALIGNMENT" AND OF AUTONOMY FROM MOSCOW.

THE REJOINDER TO THE ARTICLE IN "ZERI I POPULLIT" APPEARED IN THE "PEOPLE'S DAILY" ON JULY 14. ACCORDING TO OUR EMBASSY IN PEKING THE CHINESE RESPONSE IS A FEEBLE ONE AND ESSENTIALLY FALLS BACK ON CONCEPTS ANNOUNCED MANY TIMES BY MAO DURING THE PAST 30 YEARS ON THE QUESTION OF "INTERNATIONALISM", BUT ONE DOES NOT FIND ANY ANY REFERENCE TO THE PRESENT SITUATION.

WITH REGARD TO RELATIONS BETWEEN ALBANIA AND CHINA, OUR EMBASSY IN TIRANA REPORTED THE NEWS OF THE UNLOADING IN THE PORT OF DURAZZO OF CHINESE MILITARY MATERIAL, INCLUDING A CONFIDENTIAL

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CERTAIN NUMBER OF TANKS. THE REPORT HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED BUT IF IT WERE RIGHT, IT WOULD BE NOTHING BUT ANOTHER INDICATION THAT ALL THE NOISE ABOUT ALBANIAN "REPULSION" TOWARD PRESENT CHINESE LEADERS DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT THE ALMOST TOTAL ISOLATION OF TIRANA, AND ITS DEPENDENCE ON CHINESE AID, DOES NOT APPEAR TO PERMIT ALBANIAN LEADERS FOR THE MOMENT TO DO WITHOUT THE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP WITH PEKING DESPITE IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES.
END TEXT. BENNETT UNQUOTE VANCE

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